



# Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



## WCBVI Statewide Outreach Services

The Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WCBVI) Statewide Outreach Services provides training, information, and expertise in the areas of: specialized materials and equipment, technology, contemporary teaching and assessment strategies, and mentoring/networking opportunities for families, teachers, administrators, and other individuals who are involved in the lives of students who are blind or visually impaired birth to twenty-one years of age. The WCBVI Outreach staff works in cooperation with parents and local school district staff to help students reach their full potential.

### Consultation

The WCBVI Outreach Consultants travel across the state to provide evaluations at the request of local school districts. Additionally, these consultants may provide individualized training, technical support, participation in IEP meetings, and initial evaluations. The Consultation Team consists of six individuals with expertise in various areas. These include:

**Birth to Six:** (608) 758-6150

Developmental/educational needs of children prior to kindergarten enrollment.

**School-Aged:** (608) 758-6151

Educational implications of ocular pathologies, low vision issues, braille concerns.

**Orientation & Mobility:** (608) 758-6148

Mobility issues, all environments. Ages 3-21, including multiple disabilities.

**Multiple Disabilities:** (608) 758-6149

Curricular modifications, functional adaptations, motivating learning environments.

**Technology:** (608) 758-7157

Technology consultations, assessments and evaluations.

**Transition:** (608) 758-4925

Expertise and consultation for transition planning for students ages 14 – 21.

### **Outreach Assessments and Evaluations offered:**

Assessments and evaluations will be provided in the home community or on the WCBVI campus as deemed appropriate.

- Birth to 3 home/agency assessments to help with IFSPs.
- Diagnostic assessments to help determine eligibility for “vision disability” services.
- Vision assessments to help IEP teams with 3-year re-evaluations.
- Needs assessments to help IEP teams with annual IEPs.
- Assessments to help determine the effects of vision disability on functional activities for students with multiple disabilities.

- Orientation and mobility assessments to help determine the need for related service.
- Comprehensive assessments to address all relevant needs related to the child's vision condition.
- Comprehensive assistive technology assessments.
- Functional vision evaluations.
- Reading media evaluations.
- Braille use or readiness evaluations.
- Orientation and mobility evaluations.
- Independent living skills evaluations.
- Vocational evaluations.
- Technology evaluations
- Transition evaluation and consultation

### **Professional Development**

**Professional Development Director:** 608-758-6152

Plans a variety of professional development opportunities including classes, seminars, and workshops that are available based on statewide need.

**Parent Liaison:** 608-758-4928

Provides resources and information to families and caregivers of students who are blind or visually impaired, in addition to planning workshops and training opportunities statewide.

**Outreach Support Specialist:** 715-453-2141

Based in Northern Wisconsin, provides resources and information to teachers, families, schools, local districts and other individuals involved in the lives of students who are blind or visually impaired. Liaison to state and national organizations and agencies that focus on issues of the blind and visually impaired.

### **Clinics, Conferences, and Special Programs**

The WCBVI maintains a statewide activity calendar which includes programs such as:

- **Low Vision Clinics**—4-10 clinics per year at various statewide locations.
- **Transition Clinic (pre-kindergarten)** – A two-day clinic designed to offer evaluative and functional information on academic students entering kindergarten in the next academic year (includes a mock kindergarten classroom experience).
- **Preschool Conference** - A family friendly networking and informational program for families and staff working with babies and children ages birth to 6 years old. Location may vary.
- **State-wide Open Track Meet**— A day long track meet designed to encourage track and field participation for students who are blind or visually impaired. This activity occurs in a different location each year
- **Braille Olympics**—A fun-filled two – day residential experience designed to enhance braille skills of students at all levels.
- **Summer Programs**—Located on WCBVI campus and at various statewide locations.

- **Graduate Level Coursework** - Continuing education & certification opportunities in conjunction with University Programs.
- **Inservice Training** – topics related to providing service to babies and students who are blind or visually impaired. Information varies as determined by regional and state training needs.
- **Autumn Adventure** - A two-day residential program located at the Wisconsin Lions Camp, (Rosholt, WI) focusing on enhancing independence skills and outdoor experiences.
- **Music Fest** – A three-day music festival offering performance opportunities and instruction in the braille music code.
- **And more...**

Please see our website ([www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us](http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us)) or contact us for a current calendar of events.